

ADA104064

AP-E430672

(12)  
B-5

LEVEL III

AD

TECHNICAL REPORT ARBRL-TR-02339 ✓

RELATIVE EROSIONITY OF NITRAMINE,  
TRIPLE-BASE, AND DOUBLE-BASE PROPELLANTS

R. P. Kaste  
I. C. Stobie  
J. R. Ward  
B. D. Bensinger

DTIC  
ELECTED  
SEP 10 1981  
S D  
B

July 1981



US ARMY ARMAMENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND  
BALLISTIC RESEARCH LABORATORY  
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MARYLAND

DMC FILE COPY

Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.

81 8 27 023

Destroy this report when it is no longer needed.  
Do not return it to the originator.

Secondary distribution of this report by originating  
or sponsoring activity is prohibited.

Additional copies of this report may be obtained  
from the National Technical Information Service,  
U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, Virginia  
22161.

The findings in this report are not to be construed as  
an official Department of the Army position, unless  
so designated by other authorized documents.

*The use of trade names or manufacturers' names in this report  
does not constitute endorsement of any commercial product.*

## UNCLASSIFIED

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
1. REPORT NUMBER TECHNICAL REPORT ARBRL-TR-02339	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO. <i>AD-A104 064</i>	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER
4. TITLE (and Subtitle) RELATIVE EROSION OF NITRAMINE, TRIPLE-BASE, AND DOUBLE-BASE PROPELLANTS	5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED BRL Technical Report	
7. AUTHOR(s) R.P. Kaste      B.D. Bensinger I.C. Stobie J.R. Ward	6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER	
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS U.S. Army Armament Research & Development Command U.S. Army Ballistic Research Laboratory ATTN: DRDAR-BLI Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD	10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS 1L161102AH43	
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS U.S. Army Armament Research & Development Command U.S. Army Ballistic Research Laboratory ATTN: DRDAR-BL Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005	12. REPORT DATE JULY 1981	
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS (if different from Controlling Office)	13. NUMBER OF PAGES 42	
15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) UNCLASSIFIED		
15a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE		
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.		
17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report)		
18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES Presented at 1981 JANNAF Propulsion Meeting		
19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Gun barrel wear      Nitramine propellant Vented chamber      Heat transfer Propellant erosivity Nordheim		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) (jlc) A series of nitramine, triple-base, and double-base propellants in lots with flame temperatures of 2,700, 3,000 and 3,300K were tested for relative erosivity in vented chambers at BRL, Princeton University and the Large Caliber Weapons Systems Laboratory (LCWSL).  During initial testing, the BRL results suggested that the nitramine propellants were no more erosive than their double- or triple-base counterparts.		

**UNCLASSIFIED**

**SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE(When Data Entered)**

**20. ABSTRACT (Continued)**

The Princeton experiments concluded the opposite. The LCWSL results suggested the 2,700K nitramine was more erosive than other 2,700K propellants, but the higher-flame temperature nitramines seemed no more erosive.

One weakness in the BRL tests was the small mass losses measured with the 2,700K propellants which could have masked differences among these propellants. To rectify this, the erosivity of the nine propellants was measured with a smaller diameter nozzle to increase mass loss per round. The results with the smaller diameter nozzle confirmed that the nitramines were no more erosive than the other propellants with the same flame temperatures.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS . . . . .	5
LIST OF TABLES . . . . .	7
I. INTRODUCTION , . . . .	9
II. EXPERIMENTAL . . . . .	11
III. RESULTS . . . . .	11
IV. CONCLUSIONS . . . . .	26
REFERENCES . . . . .	27
APPENDIX . . . . .	29
DISTRIBUTION LIST . . . . .	39

Accession For	
NTIS Classification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DTIC Type	<input type="checkbox"/>
University Microfilms	<input type="checkbox"/>
Justification	<input type="checkbox"/>
By _____	
Distribution/	
Availability Codes	
Available/or	
Dist	Special
A	

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	Page
A-1 Propellant TB-1 . . . . .	30
A-2 Propellant DB-1 . . . . .	31
A-3 Propellant NA-1 . . . . .	32
A-4 Propellant NA-2 . . . . .	33
A-5 Propellant DB-2 . . . . .	34
A-6 Propellant TB-2 . . . . .	35
A-7 Propellant NA-3 . . . . .	36
A-8 Propellant DB-3 . . . . .	37
A-9 Propellant TB-3 . . . . .	38

## LIST OF TABLES

	Page
1. Composition and Grain Dimensions of the Nitramine Propellants .	12
2. Composition and Grain Dimensions of the Triple-Base Propellants . . . . .	13
3. Composition and Grain Dimensions of the Double-Base Propellants . . . . .	14
4. Thermochemical Properties of Propellant and Combustion Gases . . . . .	15
5. Summary of Mass Losses for NA-1, TB-1, and DB-1 Propellants . .	16
6. Summary of Mass Losses for NA-2, TB-2, and DB-2 Propellants . .	17
7. Summary of Mass Losses for NA-3, TB-3, and DB-3 Propellants . .	18
8. Mean Mass Loss/Shot from 12.4 mm Diameter Nozzle . . . . .	19
9. Comparison of Earlier Results with Mass Losses from 12.7 mm Diameter Nozzle . . . . .	20
10. Internal Energy of Propellant Gases in Vented Chamber Experiments . . . . .	24
11. Heat Input and Bore Surface Temperature for Different Pressure-Time Curves with Equivalent Charge Mass . . . . .	25

## I. INTRODUCTION

Gun propellants with nitramines, RDX or HMX, have higher impetus for a given flame temperature than single-, double-, or triple-base propellants. Nitramine propellants have been advocated because they would cause less barrel wear for the same velocity. Such advocacy stems from the assumption that nitramine propellants are no more erosive than conventional propellants. This was challenged by some workers during World War II,<sup>1-3</sup> although Hobstetter<sup>4</sup> claimed that erroneous thermochemical calculations of the nitramine propellant's flame temperatures clouded their results. The contention that nitramine propellants were more erosive, however, has persisted<sup>5-7</sup> ever since.

Continued interest in nitramines for high-velocity application and new

<sup>1</sup>N.H. Smith, "Pre-engraved Projectiles," NDRC Armor and Ordnance Report No. A-448, December 1945.

<sup>2</sup>N.H. Smith, "The Caliber 0.50 Erosion Testing Gun," NDRC Armor and Ordnance Report No. A-450, January 1946.

<sup>3</sup>N.H. Smith, "Comparison of the Erosiveness of Propellant Powders," NDRC Armor and Ordnance Report No. A-451, October 1945.

<sup>4</sup>J.N. Hobstetter, "Application of Heat Transfer Theory to Metallographic Evidences of Gun Erosion," NDRC Armor and Ordnance Report No. A-452, December 1945.

<sup>5</sup>D.J. Taylor, "Gun Erosion and Methods of Control," Proceedings of Interservice Technical Meeting on Gun Tube Erosion and Control, Watervliet Arsenal, February 1970.

<sup>6</sup>E.F. Boggs, B.A. Helman, and R.P. Bauman, "High-Force, Low Flame Temperature, Nitramine-Filled Propellants," Proceedings of the International Symposium on Gun Propellants, Picatinny Arsenal, October 1973.

<sup>7</sup>I. Ahmad, "The Problem of Gun Barrel Erosion, An Overview," Proceedings of the Tri-Service Gun Tube Wear and Erosion Symposium, Picatinny Arsenal, March 1977.

interest in using nitramines as low-vulnerability propellants<sup>8-10</sup> prompted reexamination of the erosivity of nitramine compositions. BRL workers measured erosivity of nitramine propellants prepared by the LCWSL.<sup>11,12</sup> The nitramine propellants were found no more erosive than conventional propellants with equivalent flame temperatures. Princeton University found RDX-propellants to be more erosive.<sup>13</sup>

To try to resolve the continuing controversy over erosivity of nitramine propellants, Geene of BRL used interior ballistic and thermochemical codes to devise a series of nitramine, double-base, and triple-base propellants each with flame temperatures of 2,700, 3,000 and 3,300K. Experiments conducted at BRL concluded that there was no difference in wear among propellants with the same flame temperature.<sup>14</sup> Experiments at LCWSL and

<sup>8</sup>J.J. Rocchio, H.J. Reeves, and I.W. May, "Low-Vulnerability Ammunitions Concept Development," Proceedings of the 1976 JANNAF Propulsion Meeting, CPIA Publication 280, February 1977.

<sup>9</sup>J.J. Rocchio and R.W. Deas, "Interior Ballistics of Nitramine-Inert Binder Formulations Being Evaluated for Low-Vulnerability Propellants," Proceedings of the 15th JANNAF Combustion Meeting, CPIA Publication No. 297, February 1979.

<sup>10</sup>W.H. Vreatt and S.E. Mitchell, "Navy LOVA Propellant Development," Proceedings of the 16th JANNAF Combustion Meeting, CPIA Publication 308, December 1979.

<sup>11</sup>R.W. Geene, J.R. Ward, T.L. Brosseau, A. Niiler, R. Berkunire, and J.J. Rocchio, "Erosivity of a Nitramine Propellant," BRL Technical Report No. 02094, August 1978. (AD #A060590)

<sup>12</sup>J.R. Ward and R.W. Geene, "Erosivity of a Nitramine Propellant with Flame Temperature of M30 Propellant," BRL Memorandum Report MR-2926, June 1979. (AD #A074346)

<sup>13</sup>L.H. Caveny, A. Gany, S.O. Morris, M. Summerfield, and J.W. Johnson, "Effect of Propellant Type on Steel Erosion," Proceedings of the 1978 JANNAF Propulsion Meeting, CPIA Publication 293, February 1978.

<sup>14</sup>J.R. Ward, R.W. Geene, A. Niiler, A. Rye, and B.B. Grossman, "Blow-out Gun Erosivity Experiments with Double-Base, Triple-Base, and Nitramine Propellants," Proceedings of the 1980 JANNAF Propulsion Meeting, CPIA Publication 315, March 1980.

Princeton University reached different conclusions.<sup>15</sup> The Princeton workers found the nitramines more erosive in every instance, while the LCWSL experimenters found only the 2,700K nitramine propellant more erosive than its 2,700K counterparts. In the meantime, Vassallo and coworkers at Calspan reported that a nitramine propellant was more erosive than a triple-base propellant with like flame temperature.<sup>16</sup>

One problem with the BRL results was that small mass losses recorded for the 2,700K propellants may have masked differences among the three propellants. In order to resolve the nitramine propellant controversy, the BRL wear measurements were repeated with a smaller-diameter nozzle to increase the mass loss per shot.

## II. EXPERIMENTAL

Propellant ingredients, thermochemical properties, and combustion-gas compositions for a 0.2 g/cm<sup>3</sup> loading density are listed in Tables 1-4.

A description of the blowout gun and the experimental procedure is available in earlier reports.<sup>11,12,14</sup> The only change is that the nozzle diameter is 12.4 mm vs the 17.3 mm in the earlier test.<sup>14</sup> The charge masses were adjusted to give closed-bomb peak-pressures of 303 MPa, well above the rupture pressure of the two 1.6 mm-thick steel shear disks.

## III. RESULTS

The mass losses recorded for each shot with each of the nine propellants tested are summarized in Tables 5-7. A sample pressure-time curve for each propellant is provided in the Appendix.

Table 8 summarizes the mean mass loss/shot and the sample standard deviation for each propellant. Table 9 compares the latest results with those recorded in Reference 14 with the larger diameter nozzle.

The smaller diameter nozzle produces larger mass losses per shot as anticipated. In particular, the mass loss/shot for the 2,700K flame temperature propellants exceeds the mass loss/shot for the 3,300K propellants with the large-diameter nozzle. The results confirm earlier findings that nitramine propellants have similar erosivity as the double-base and triple-base propellants with equivalent flame temperatures.

<sup>15</sup> A.J. Bracuti, L. Bottei, J.A. Lannon, and L.H. Caveny, "Evaluation of Propellant Erosivity with Vented Erosion Apparatus," Proceedings of the 1980 JANNAF Propulsion Meeting, CPIA Publication 315, March 1980.

<sup>16</sup> F.A. Vassallo, "Thermal and Erosion Phenomenology in Medium-Caliber Anti-Armor Automatic Cannon (MC-AAAC)," Proceedings of the 1980 JANNAF Propulsion Meeting, CPIA Publication 315, March 1980.

TABLE 1. COMPOSITION AND GRAIN DIMENSIONS OF THE NITRAMINE PROPELLANTS

<u>Composition</u>	<u>NA-1</u>	<u>NA-2</u>	<u>NA-3</u>
Nitrocellulose (% Nitrogen)	30.0% (12.6)	30.0% (12.6)	30.0% (12.6)
Nitroglycerin	15.6	18.3	21.1
RDX	41.5	41.5	41.5
Ethyl Centralite	1.5	1.5	1.5
Dioctylphthalate	11.2	8.5	5.7
Residual Alcohol	0.2	0.2	0.2
<u>Dimensions</u>			
Length, mm	7.26	9.09	10.9
Outer Diameter, mm	1.78	2.21	2.67
Inner Diameter, mm	0.66	0.84	0.99
Web, mm	0.56	0.69	0.84
Heat of Explosion, J/g	3454	3869	4308

TABLE 2. COMPOSITION AND GRAIN DIMENSIONS  
OF THE TRIPLE-BASE PROPELLANTS

<u>Composition</u>	<u>TB-1</u>	<u>TB-2</u>	<u>TB-3</u>
Nitrocellulose (% Nitrogen)	27.4% (12.6)	27.4% (12.6)	27.4% (12.6)
Nitroglycerin	11.0	22.0	33.0
Nitroguanidine	59.6	48.6	37.6
Ethyl Centralite	1.5	1.5	1.5
Sodium Cryolite	0.3	0.3	0.3
Residual Alcohol	0.2	0.2	0.2
 <u>Dimensions</u>			
Length, mm	7.06	9.80	11.58
Outer Diameter, mm	1.68	2.11	2.49
Inner Diameter, mm	0.71	0.84	1.02
Web, mm	0.41	0.64	0.74
Heat of Explosion, J/g	3622	3906	4375

TABLE 3. COMPOSITION AND GRAIN DIMENSIONS  
OF THE DOUBLE-BASE PROPELLANTS

<u>Composition</u>	<u>DB-1</u>	<u>DB-2</u>	<u>DB-3</u>
Nitrocellulose (% Nitrogen)	66.6% (13.25)	69.8% (13.25)	73.2% (13.25)
Nitroglycerin	20.0	20.0	20.0
Barium Nitrate	1.4	1.4	1.4
Potassium Nitrate	0.7	0.7	0.7
Ethyl Centralite	11.1	7.9	4.5
Residual Alcohol	0.2	0.2	0.2
<u>Dimensions</u>			
Length, mm	7.82	9.68	11.91
Outer Diameter, mm	1.98	2.41	2.97
Inner Diameter, mm	0.84	1.04	1.27
Web, mm	0.57	0.69	0.85
Heat of Explosion, J/g	3417	3793	4229

TABLE 4. THERMOCHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF PROPELLANT AND COMBUSTION GASES

Propellant	Flame Temperature T, K	Impetus, J/g	Co Volume, cm/g	Molecular Weight, g/mole				Principal Combustion Gases, moles/kg			Gas Specific Heat Ratio Cp,J/mole Y
				CO <sub>2</sub>	CO	H <sub>2</sub> O	N <sub>2</sub>				
DB-1	2,705	991	1.084	22.7	21.3	2.6	6.8	8.2	4.9	41.8	1.26
TB-1	2,698	1,007	1.087	22.3	12.1	2.2	9.4	7.6	13.4	42.5	1.25
NA-1	2,709	1,078	1.151	20.9	20.4	1.6	6.1	11.1	8.0	40.6	1.26
DB-2	2,994	1,046	1.043	23.8	19.0	3.5	8.2	6.0	5.0	43.5	1.24
TB-2	3,004	1,075	1.052	23.2	11.7	2.9	10.5	5.6	12.1	44.0	1.24
NA-2	3,002	1,143	1.112	21.8	18.7	2.1	7.6	9.2	8.2	42.0	1.25
DB-3	3,297	1,093	1.003	25.1	16.3	4.8	9.4	4.0	5.0	45.6	1.23
TB-3	3,304	1,133	1.018	24.2	11.1	3.9	11.2	4.0	10.7	45.6	1.23
NA-3	3,307	1,200	1.071	22.9	16.7	2.8	8.9	6.7	8.4	43.5	1.24

TABLE 5. SUMMARY OF MASS LOSSES FOR NA-1, TB-1, AND DB-1 PROPELLANTS

Propellant	ID	Nozzle	Nozzle Shot No.	Charge Mass, g	Rupture Pressure, MPa	Mass Loss, mg
NA-1	5	N	2	70.6	276	2.3
NA-1	8	N	3	70.6	262	2.0
NA-1	11	N	4	70.6	248	3.1
NA-1	14	N	5	70.6	248	3.4
NA-1	17	N	6	70.6	255	6.0
NA-1	20	N	7	70.6	255	5.0
NA-1	23	N	8	70.6	248	4.0
TB-1	3	T	1	74.4	255	7.4
TB-1	6	T	2	74.4	255	4.5
TB-1	9	T	3	74.4	248	4.3
TB-1	12	T	4	74.4	255	7.0
TB-1	15	T	5	74.4	248	4.9
TB-1	18	T	6	74.4	255	6.2
TB-1	21	T	7	74.4	248	4.7
DB-1	4	O	2	75.0	255	4.5
DB-1	7	O	3	75.0	255	3.0
DB-1	10	O	4	75.0	255	5.1
DB-1	13	O	5	75.0	255	3.2
DB-1	16	O	6	75.0	248	3.0
DB-1	19	O	7	75.0	248	3.4
DB-1	22	O	8	75.0	---	4.0
DB-1	24	O	9	75.0	248	4.1

TABLE 6. SUMMARY OF MASS LOSSES FOR NA-2, TB-2, AND DB-2 PROPELLANTS

<u>Propellant</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Nozzle</u>	<u>Nozzle Shot No.</u>	<u>Charge Mass, g</u>	<u>Rupture Pressure, MPa</u>	<u>Mass Loss, mg</u>
NA-2	42	N	13	68.4	255	12.7
NA-2	45	N	14	68.4	255	10.8
NA-2	48	N	15	68.4	255	13.4
NA-2	50	N	16	68.4	255	12.9
NA-2	53	N	17	68.4	255	11.2
TB-2	44	T	15	71.9	255	6.9
TB-2*	47	T	16	71.9	248	7.3
DB-2	43	0	16	73.5	255	13.8
DB-2	46	0	17	73.5	255	9.6
DB-2	49	0	18	73.5	255	9.7
DB-2	51	0	19	73.5	255	10.2
DB-2	54	0	20	73.5	255	10.7

\* Sufficient TB-2 available for two shots only.

TABLE 7. SUMMARY OF MASS LOSSES FOR NA-3, TB-3, AND DB-3 PROPELLANTS

<u>Propellant</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Nozzle</u>	<u>Nozzle Shot No.</u>	<u>Charge Mass, g</u>	<u>Rupture Pressure, MPa</u>	<u>Mass Loss, mg</u>
NA-3	85	N	27	65.7	248	30.6
NA-3	89	N	28	65.7	248	18.6
NA-3	92	N	29	65.7	248	18.2
NA-3	95	N	30	65.7	255	24.4
NA-3	98	N	31	65.7	255	11.1
NA-3	101	N	32	65.7	248	22.9
NA-3	102	N	33	65.7	248	25.4
TB-3	84	T	27	69.4	241	34.9
TB-3	88	T	28	69.4	248	23.7
TB-3	91	T	29	69.4	248	28.4
TB-3	94	T	30	69.4	241	20.7
TB-3	97	T	31	69.4	255	27.1
TB-3	100	T	32	69.4	248	23.5
DB-3	83	O	29	71.6	248	15.0
DB-3	87	O	30	71.6	248	22.1
DB-3	90	O	31	71.6	248	28.6
DB-3	93	O	32	71.6	241	20.2
DB-3	96	O	33	71.6	248	20.2
DB-3	99	O	34	71.6	248	18.5

TABLE 8. MEAN MASS LOSS/SHOT FROM 12.4 mm DIAMETER NOZZLE\*

<u>Propellant Flame Temp., K</u>	<u>Double-Base</u>	<u>Triple-Base</u>	<u>Nitramine</u>
2,700	3.8 ± 0.8**	5.6 ± 1.3	3.7 ± 1.4
3,000	10.8 ± 1.7	7.1 ± 0.3	12.2 ± 1.1
3,300	20.8 ± 4.5	26.4 ± 5.0	21.6 ± 6.3

\* Wear given as mg/shot.

\*\* Error given as sample standard deviation.

TABLE 9. COMPARISON OF EARLIER RESULTS WITH MASS LOSSES FROM 12.7mm DIAMETER NOZZLES.

<u>Propellant</u>	<u>Wear, mg/shot*</u>	<u>Wear, mg/shot**</u>
NA-1	1.9 ± 0.7***	1.3 ± 0.9
TB-1	2.8 ± 0.9	2.3 ± 1.0
DB-1	1.7 ± 0.7	2.1 ± 0.3
NA-2	2.5 ± 0.9	7.1 ± 2.5
TB-2	3.0 ± 0.9	4.1 ± 0.9
DB-2	2.8 ± 0.7	3.9 ± 0.7
NA-3	3.6 ± 1.5	12.6 ± 3.9
TB-3	4.1 ± 1.7	11.7 ± 3.0
DB-3	3.7 ± 1.4	13.9 ± 2.9

20

\* Wear measured with 17.3mm diameter nozzle, two shear disks, nominal rupture pressure 248 MPa.

\*\* Wear measured with 17.3mm diameter nozzle, three shear disks, nominal rupture pressure 324 MPa.

\*\*\* Wear measured with 12.7mm diameter nozzle, two shear disks, nominal rupture pressure 248 MPa.

\*\*\*\* Error expressed as sample standard deviation.

Since this conclusion contradicts other experiments<sup>13</sup> with the same propellants, it seems worthwhile to speculate about how to convert wear from vented-chamber experiments to large-caliber guns.

One needs, first of all, to define "inherent" erosivity. The interpretation adopted here is how will gun barrel wear vary when a conventional propellant is replaced with a nitramine propellant such that the interior ballistics are unchanged through adjustment of charge mass, web, or burning rate. Experience dictates that wear is reduced whenever the flame temperature is reduced. Thus, the assertion that nitramine propellants are "inherently" more erosive than conventional propellants implies an important gap exists in our understanding of gun barrel wear.

In BRL experiments the charge masses are adjusted to the same closed chamber peak pressure which is twenty percent larger than the shear disks' rupture pressure. The resulting flow through the nozzle is independent of propellant web and burning rate. The experiment deviates from a gun in that there is no projectile accelerated. The only potential contribution from the projectile is friction which should be inconsequential compared to the wear from convective heat transfer. This latter conclusion is buttressed by experiments in which plastic rotating bands replaced metal bands without changing wear.<sup>17,18</sup>

Some further justification for matching chamber pressure to test propellant erosivity comes from Nordheim's<sup>19</sup> analysis of flow through vents.

Nordheim devised the following expression relating chamber pressure vs time where the subscript, o, represents conditions at propellant burnout with no heat loss to the walls,

$$P = P_o [1 + \frac{1}{2}(\gamma - 1)B(1 + b_n \sigma_o)t]^{-2\gamma/(\gamma-1)}, \quad (1)$$

<sup>17</sup> M.C. Shambren, "Overview of Erosion in U.S. Naval Guns," Proceedings of the Tri-Service Gun Tube Wear and Erosion Symposium, Picatinny Arsenal, March 1977.

<sup>18</sup> R. Berkmire and A. Niler, "Radioactive Tracers in Erosion Wear Measurements," Proceedings of the Tri-Service Gun Tube Wear and Erosion Symposium, Picatinny Arsenal, March 1977.

<sup>19</sup> L.W. Nordheim, H. Soodak, and G. Nordheim, "Thermal Effects of Propellant Gases in Erosion Vents and Guns," NDRC Armor and Ordnance Report No. A-262, March 1944.

where  $P$  = chamber pressure at time,  $t$ ,

$\gamma$  = ratio of specific heats,

$\eta$  = co-volume, and

$\sigma, B, b$  = expressions defined in Eqs. (2) - (5).

The quantity,  $\sigma$  is defined as

$$\sigma = \rho / (1 - \eta \rho) , \quad (2)$$

where  $\rho$  = density of gas.

$B$  is defined as

$$B = \frac{A}{M_0} \left[ \sigma_0 P_0 \gamma \left( \frac{2}{\gamma+1} \right)^{\frac{\gamma+1}{\gamma}} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} , \quad (3)$$

where  $A$  = cross-sectional area at nozzle throat, and

$M$  = propellant mass.

The expression for  $b$  is

$$b = -1 + \frac{(\gamma-1)}{(3-\gamma)} [2 + \frac{1}{2}(\gamma+1)\epsilon] * \left[ \frac{1 - (1 + \frac{1}{2}(\gamma-1)Bt)^{-\frac{3+\gamma}{\gamma-1}}}{\frac{1}{2}(\gamma-1)Bt} \right] , \quad (4)$$

where the only undefined quantity,  $\epsilon$ , is given by

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{\gamma} \left[ 1 - 2 \left( \frac{2}{\gamma+1} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma-1}} \right] . \quad (5)$$

The pressure in the vent is related to the chamber pressure as follows:

$$P^* = \left[ \left( \frac{2}{\gamma+1} \right)^{\frac{(\gamma-1)}{\gamma}} \right] * P * (1 + \epsilon \gamma \eta \sigma) , \quad (6)$$

where  $P^*$  = pressure at nozzle throat.

The propellant's burning time to peak pressure should be matched as closely as possible to avoid different heat losses to the wall. For the nine propellants tested here, the heat loss was the same, as evidenced by the closed bomb results in Reference 13 where the ratio of the experimental peak pressure to the theoretical peak pressure was the same for all the propellants.

Nordheim also developed a scheme to compute convective heat transfer from propellant gases using Reynold's analogy between momentum transfer and heat transfer. The heat transfer coefficient

$$h = \frac{1}{2} \lambda C_p \rho U , \quad (7)$$

where  $h$  = heat transfer coefficient,

$\lambda$  = friction factor,

$C_p$  = specific heat at constant pressures,

$\rho$  = gas density, and

$U$  = gas velocity.

The heat transfer to the wall is then

$$q = h(T_g - T_s) , \quad (8)$$

where  $q$  = heat transfer,

$T_g$  = gas temperature, and

$T_s$  = surface temperature of wall.

Eqs. (7) and (8) suggest one can predict what the relative erosivity should be comparing the internal energy of the combustion gases. Table 10 computes the internal energy per milliliter for the nine propellants with thermochemical data from Table 4. Table 10 shows the internal energy is the same within a few percent for each set of propellants with a given flame temperature implying that the wear should be the same within the experimental error of the vented chamber experiments.

Further justification for taking care to match pressure-time curves to infer erosivity is given in another calculation by Nordheim in which he computed heat transfer and peak bore surface temperature for a 37mm gun with constant propellant mass and peak pressure but with various projectile masses. Table 11 summarizes the calculations showing that the lightest

TABLE 10. INTERNAL ENERGY OF PROPELLANT GASES IN VENTED CHAMBER EXPERIMENTS

<u>Propellant</u>	<u><math>C_p</math>, J/g-K</u>	<u>Charge Mass, g</u>	<u>Density, g/cm<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>Internal Energy, J/cm<sup>3</sup>, <math>\times 10^{-3}</math></u>
DB-1	1.84	75.0	0.227	1.13
TB-1	1.89	74.4	.225	1.15
NA-1	1.96	70.6	.214	1.14
DB-2	1.83	73.5	.223	1.22
TB-2	1.90	71.9	.218	1.24
NA-2	1.93	68.4	.207	1.20
DB-3	1.81	71.6	.217	1.30
TB-3	1.88	69.4	.210	1.30
NA-3	1.99	65.7	.199	1.25

TABLE II. HEAT INPUT AND BORE SURFACE TEMPERATURE FOR DIFFERENT  
PRESSURE-TIME CURVES WITH EQUIVALENT CHARGE MASS

<u>Projectile Mass, g</u>	<u>Propellant Mass, g</u>	<u>Muzzle Velocity, m/s</u>	<u>Bore Temperature, K</u>	<u>Heat Input, J/mm<sup>2</sup></u>
670	182	792	953	0.494
335	182	1,067	1,023	.469
168	182	1,417	1,093	.448

projectile produces the highest peak temperature and, presumably, the highest wear, since the action time decreases. One set of workers compensates for differences in propellant burning rates by comparing wear of propellants with equivalent pressure-time integrals.<sup>13</sup> Nordheim's calculations suggest that pressure-time curves with equal integrals will produce higher fluxes and higher bore surface temperatures as the action time decreases (peak pressure increases).

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

1. Mass losses measured with the smaller diameter nozzle confirm earlier BRL results that nitramine propellants are no more erosive than double-base or triple-base propellants with comparable flame temperatures.
2. Contradictions among BRL, Princeton University, and the LCWSL about the relative erosivity of nitramine propellants seem to reflect differences in analysing wear in the vented chambers. The BRL procedure is based on the presumption that pressure-time curves must be matched in order to assess relative erosivity.

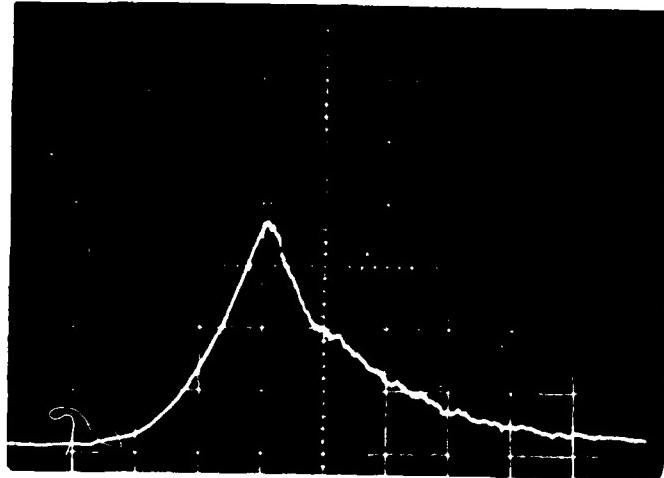
#### REFERENCES

1. N. H. Smith, "Pre-engraved Projectiles," NDRC Armor and Ordnance Report No. A-448, December 1945.
2. N. H. Smith, "The Caliber 0.50 Erosion Testing Gun," NDRC Armor and Ordnance Report No. A-450, January 1946.
3. N. H. Smith, "Comparison of the Erosiveness of Propellant Powders," NDRC Armor and Ordnance Report No. A-451, October, 1945.
4. J. N. Hobstetter, "Application of Heat Transfer Theory to Metallographic Evidences of Gun Erosion," NDRC Armor and Ordnance Report No. A-452, December 1945.
5. D. J. Taylor, "Gun Erosion and Methods of Control," Proceedings of Interservice Technical Meeting on Gun Tube Erosion and Control, Watervliet Arsenal, February 1970.
6. E. F. Boggs, B. A. Helman, and R. P. Bauman, "High-Force, Low Flame Temperature, Nitramine-Filled Propellants," Proceedings of the International Symposium on Gun Propellants, Picatinny Arsenal, October 1973.
7. I. Ahmad, "The Problem of Gun Barrel Erosion, An Overview," Proceedings of the Tri-Service Gun Tube Wear and Erosion Symposium, Picatinny Arsenal, March 1977.
8. J. J. Rocchio, H. J. Reeves, and I. W. May, "Low-Vulnerability Ammunitions Concept Development," Proceedings of the 1976 JANNAF Propulsion Meeting, CPIA Publication 280, February 1977.
9. J. J. Rocchio and R. W. Deas, "Interior Ballistics of Nitramine-Inert Binder Formulations Being Evaluated for Low-Vulnerability Propellants," Proceedings of the 15th JANNAF Combustion Meeting, CPIA Publication No. 297, February 1979.
10. W. H. Vreatt and S. E. Mitchell, "Navy LOVA Propellant Development," Proceedings of the 16th JANNAF Combustion Meeting, CPIA Publication 308, December 1979.
11. R. W. Geene, J. R. Ward, T. L. Brosseau, A. Niiler, R. Berkmire, and J. J. Rocchio, "Erosivity of a Nitramine Propellant," BRL Technical Report No. 02094, August 1978. (AD #A060590)
12. J. R. Ward and R. W. Geene, "Erosivity of a Nitramine Propellant with Flame Temperature of M30 Propellant," BRL Memorandum Report 02926, June 1979. (AD #A074346)
13. L. H. Caveny, A. Gany, S. O. Morris, M. Summerfield, and J. W. Johnson, "Effect of Propellant Type on Steel Erosion," Proceedings of the 1978 JANNAF Propulsion Meeting, CPIA Publication 293, February 1978.

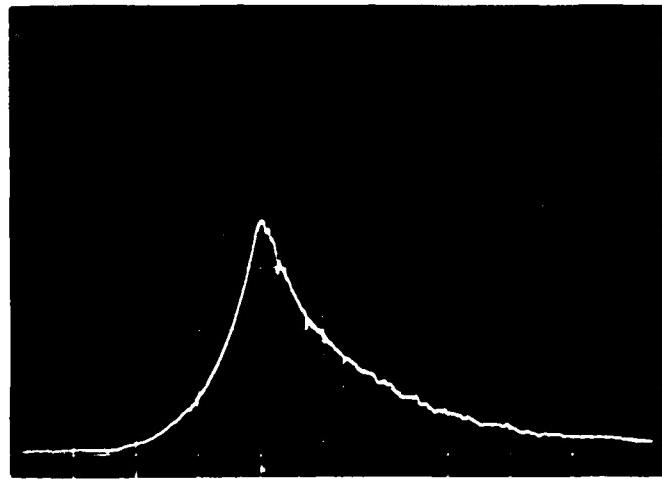
REFERENCES (Contd)

14. J. R. Ward, R. W. Geene, A. Niiler, A. Rye, and B. B. Grossman, "Blow-out Gun Erosivity Experiments with Double-Base, Triple-Base, and Nitramine Propellants," Proceedings of the 1980 JANNAF Propulsion Meeting, CPIA Publication 315, March 1980.
15. A. J. Bracuti, L. Bottei, J. A. Lannon, and L. H. Caveny, "Evaluation of Propellant Erosivity with Vented Erosion Apparatus," Proceedings of the 1980 JANNAF Propulsion Meeting, CPIA Publication 315, March 1980.
16. F. A. Vassallo, "Thermal and Erosion Phenomenonology in Medium-Caliber Anti-Armor Automatic Cannon (MC-AAAC)," Proceedings of the 1980 JANNAF Propulsion Meeting, CPIA Publication 315, March 1980.
17. M. C. Shamblen, "Overview of Erosion in U.S. Naval Guns," Proceedings of the Tri-Service Gun Tube Wear and Erosion Symposium, Picatinny Arsenal, March 1977.
18. R. Berkshire and A. Niiler, "Radioactive Tracers in Erosion Wear Measurements," Proceedings of the Tri-Service Gun Tube Wear and Erosion Symposium, Picatinny Arsenal, March 1977.
19. L. W. Nordheim, H. Soodak, and G. Nordheim, "Thermal Effects of Propellant Gases in Erosion Vents and Guns," NDRC Armor and Ordnance Report No. A-262, March 1944.

**APPENDIX**  
**PRESSURE-TIME CURVES FOR EACH PROPELLANT TESTED**



Propellant TB-1  
Nozzle T  
ID 3  
Ordinate 69 MPa/div (10ksi/div)  
Abscissa 2 ms/div



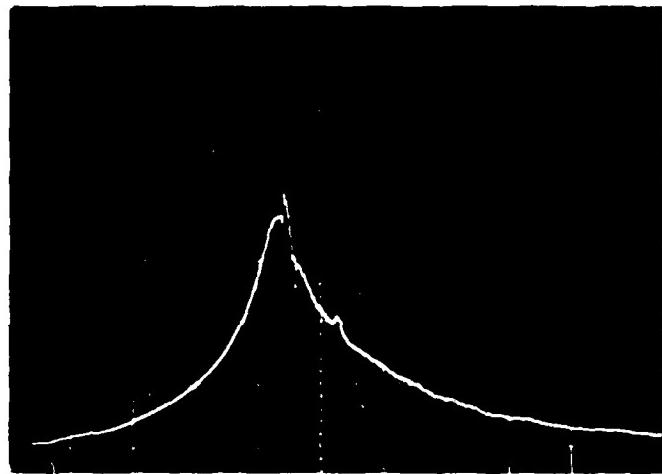
Propellant DB-1

Nozzle 0

ID 4

Ordinate 69 MPa/div (10ksi/div)

Abscissa 2 ms/div



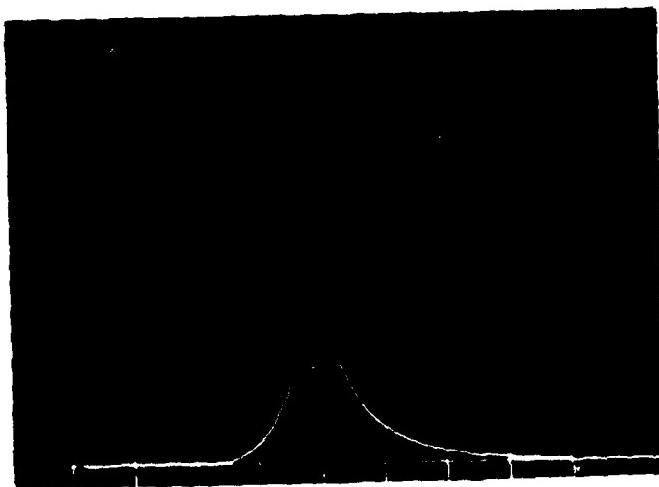
Propellant NA-1

Nozzle N

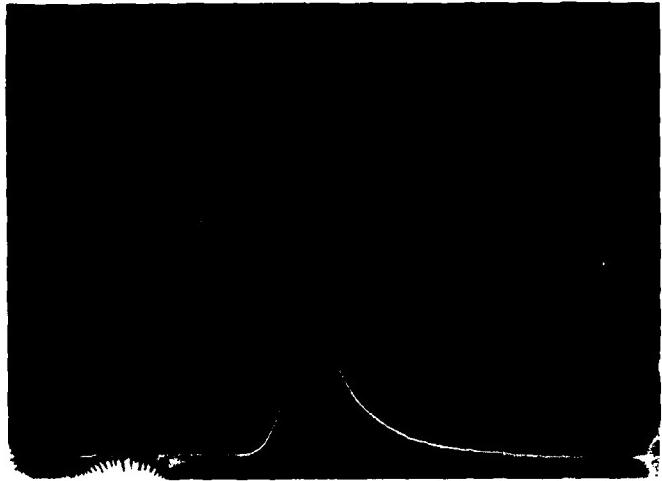
ID 5

Ordinate 69 MPa/div (10ksi/div)

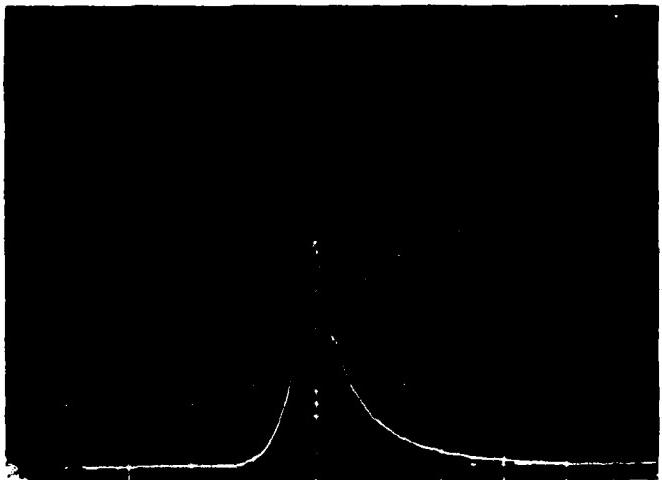
Abscissa 2 ms/div



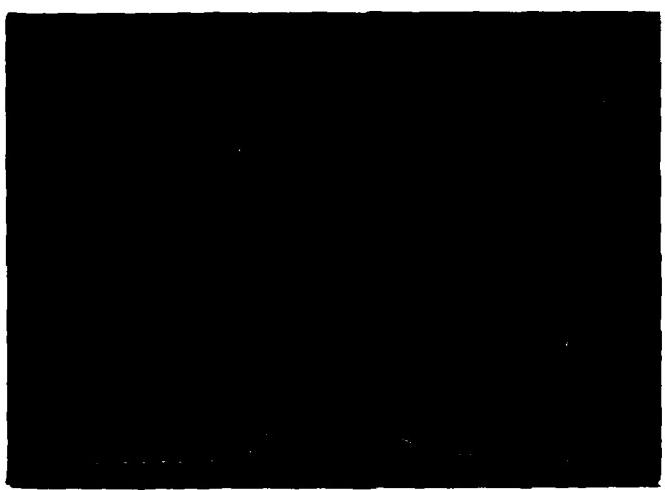
Propellant	NA-2
Nozzle	N
ID	45
Ordinate	69 MPa/div (10ksi/div)
Abscissa	5 ms/div



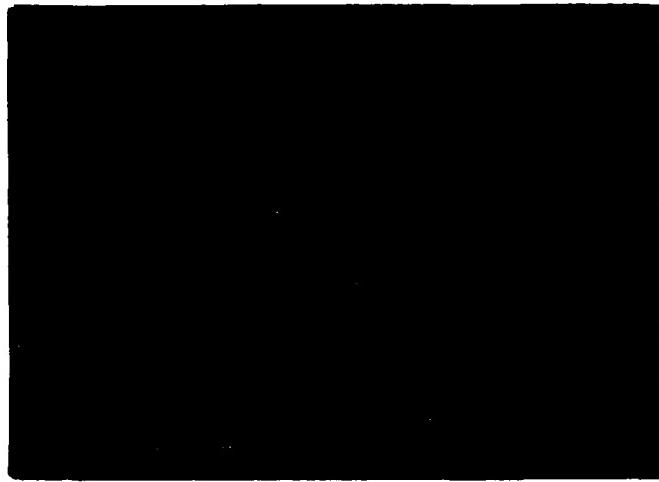
Propellant DB-2  
Nozzle 0  
ID 46  
Ordinate 69 MPa/div (10ksi/div)  
Abcissa 5 ms/div



Propellant	TB-2
Nozzle	T
ID	47
Ordinate	69 MPa/div (10ksi/div)
Abscissa	5 ms/div



Propellant            NA-3  
Nozzle              N  
ID                  92  
Ordinate            69 MPa/div (10ksi/div)  
Abscissa            5 ms/div



Propellant	DB-3
Nozzle	0
ID	93
Ordinate	69 MPa/div (10ksi/div)
Abscissa	5 ms/div



Propellant TB-3  
Nozzle T  
ID 94  
Ordinate 69 MPa/div (10ksi/div)  
Abscissa 5 ms/div

DISTRIBUTION LIST

<u>No. of Copies</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>No. of Copies</u>	<u>Organization</u>
12	Commander Defense Technical Info Center ATTN: DDC-DDA Cameron Station Alexandria, VA 22314	6	Commander US Army Armament Research and Development Command ATTN: DRDAR-LC, J. Frasier H. Fair J. Lannon A. Bracuti A. Moss R. Walker Dover, NJ 07801
1	Director of Defense Research and Engineering ATTN: R. Thorkildsen The Pentagon Washington, DC 20301	3	Commander US Army Armament Research and Development Command ATTN: DRDAR-LC E. Barrieres R. Corn K. Rubin Dover, NJ 07801
1	Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency Director, Materials Division 1400 Wilson Boulevard Arlington, VA 22209	2	Commander US Army Armament Research and Development Command ATTN: DRDAR-LC K. Russell D. Downs Dover, NJ 07801
3	HQDA (DAMA-ARZ; DAMA-CSM; DAMA-WSW) Washington, DC 20301	1	Commander US Army Armament Research and Development Command ATTN: DRDAR-QA, J. Rutkowski Dover, NJ 07801
1	Commander US Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command ATTN: DRCDMD-ST 5001 Eisenhower Avenue Alexandria, VA 22333	1	Commander US Army Armament Materiel Readiness Command ATTN: DRSAR-LEP-L, Tech Lib Rock Island, IL 61299
2	Commander US Army Armament Research and Development Command ATTN: DRDAR-TSS Dover, NJ 07801		
5	Commander US Army Armament Research and Development Command ATTN: FC & SCWSL, D. Gyorog H. Kahn B. Brodman S. Cytron T. Hung Dover, NJ 07801		

DISTRIBUTION LIST

<u>No. of Copies</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>No. of Copies</u>	<u>Organization</u>
3	Commander US Army Armament Materiel Readiness Command ATTN: DRSAR-ASR DRSAR-LEA DRSAR-QAL Rock Island, IL 61299	1	Commander US Army Research & Technology Laboratories ATTN: R. A. Langsworth Fort Eustis, VA 23604
1	Director US Army ARRADCOM Benet Weapons Laboratory ATTN: DRDAR-LCB-TL Watervliet, NY 12189	1	Commander US Army Communications Rsch and Development Command ATTN: DRDCO-PPA-SA Fort Monmouth, NJ 07703
5	Commander US Army ARRADCOM Benet' Laboratory ATTN: I. Ahmad T. Davidson G. Friar P. Greco J. Zweig Watervliet, NY 12189	1	Commander US Army Electronics Research and Development Command Technical Support Activity ATTN: DELSD-L Fort Monmouth, NJ 07703
5	Commander US Army ARRADCOM Benet' Laboratory ATTN: J. Busuttil W. Austin R. Montgomery R. Billington J. Santini Watervliet, NY 12189	1	Commander US Army Missile Command ATTN: DRSMI-R Redstone Arsenal, AL 35809
1	Commander US Army Aviation Research and Development Command ATTN: DRDAV-E 4300 Goodfellow Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63120	1	Commander US Army Missile Command ATTN: DRSMI-YDL Redstone Arsenal, AL 35809
1	Director US Army Air Mobility Research and Development Laboratory Ames Research Center Moffett Field, CA 94035	1	Commander US Army Tank Automotive Research & Development Cmd ATTN: DRDTA-UL Warren, MI 48090
		1	Project Manager, M60 Tanks US Army Tank & Automotive Cmd 28150 Dequindre Road Warren, MI 48090
		4	Project Manager Cannon Artillery Wpns Systems ATTN: DRCPM-CAWS US Army Armament Research and Development Command Dover, NJ 07801

DISTRIBUTION LIST

<u>No. of Copies</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>No. of Copies</u>	<u>Organization</u>
2	Product Manager - M110E2 ATTN: J. Turkeltaub S. Smith Rock Island, IL 61299	1	Director US Army TRADOC Systems Analysis Activity ATTN: ATAA-SL, Tech Lib White Sands Missile Range NM 88002
1	Project Manager - XM1 Tank US Army Tank Automotive Development Command 28150 Dequindre Road Warren, MI 48090	1	Commander US Army Air Defense Center ATTN: ATSA-SM-L Fort Bliss, TX 79916
1	Project Manager Tank Main Armament ATTN: A. Albright Dover, NJ 07801	1	Commander US Army Armor Center ATTN: ATZK-XM1 Fort Knox, KY 40121
1	Project Manager, ARGADS Dover, NJ 07801	1	Commander US Army Field Artillery School Fort Sill, OK 73503
1	President US Army Armor & Engineer Bd Fort Knox, KY 40121	5	Commander Naval Surface Weapons Center ATTN: M. Shamblen J. O'Brasky C. Smith L. Russell T. W. Smith Dahlgren, VA 22448
1	President US Army Maintenance Mgmt Ctr Lexington, KY 40507	2	Commander Naval Ordnance Station ATTN: L. Dickinson S. Mitchell Indian Head, MD 20640
2	Director US Army Materials and Mechanics Research Center ATTN: J. W. Johnson K. Shepard Watertown, MA 02172	1	Commander Naval Ordnance Station Louisville ATTN: F. Blume Louisville, KY 40202
3	Director US Army Research Office ATTN: P. Parrish E. Saibel D. Squire P. O. Box 12211 Research Triangle Park NC 27709	2	AFATL (D. Uhrig, O. Heiney) Eglin AFB, FL 32542

DISTRIBUTION LIST

<u>No. of Copies</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>No. of Copies</u>	<u>Organization</u>
1	National Bureau of Standards Materials Division ATTN: A. W. Ruff Washington, DC 20234	1	SRI International Materials Research Center 333 Ravenswood Avenue Menlo Park, CA 94025
1	National Science Foundation Materials Division Washington, DC 20550	1	University of Illinois Dept of Aeronautics and Aerospace Engineering ATTN: H. Krier Urbana, IL 61803
1	Battelle Columbus Laboratory ATTN: G. Wolken Columbus, OH 43201		<u>Aberdeen Proving Ground</u>
1	Lawrence Livermore Laboratory ATTN: J. Kury Livermore, CA 94550	Dir, USAMTD ATTN: H. Graves, Bldg. 400 L. Barnhardt, Bldg. 400 K. Jones, Bldg. 400 R. Moody, Bldg. 525	
2	Calspan Corporation ATTN: G. Sterbutzel F. Vassallo P. O. Box 400 Buffalo, NY 14221	Cdr, USATECOM ATTN: DRSTE-FA DRSTE-AR DRSTE-AD DRSTE-TO-F	
1	Director Chemical Propulsion Info Agency Johns Hopkins University ATTN: T. Christian Johns Hopkins Road Laurel, MD 20810	Dir, USAMSAA ATTN: DRXSY-D DRXSY-MP, H. Cohen D. Barnhardt, RAM Div G. Alexander, RAM Div Air Warfare Div	
1	Princeton University Forrestal Campus Library ATTN: Tech Lib B. Royce P. O. Box 710 Princeton, NJ 08540	Ground Warfare Div RAM Division	Dir, USACSL, Bldg. E3516, EA ATTN: DRDAR-CLB-PA
1	Purdue University School of Mechanical Engineering ATTN: J. R. Osborn W. Lafayette, IN 47909		

### USER EVALUATION OF REPORT

Please take a few minutes to answer the questions below; tear out this sheet, fold as indicated, staple or tape closed, and place in the mail. Your comments will provide us with information for improving future reports.

1. BRL Report Number \_\_\_\_\_
2. Does this report satisfy a need? (Comment on purpose, related project, or other area of interest for which report will be used.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How, specifically, is the report being used? (Information source, design data or procedure, management procedure, source of ideas, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Has the information in this report led to any quantitative savings as far as man-hours/contract dollars saved, operating costs avoided, efficiencies achieved, etc.? If so, please elaborate.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. General Comments (Indicate what you think should be changed to make this report and future reports of this type more responsive to your needs, more usable, improve readability, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. If you would like to be contacted by the personnel who prepared this report to raise specific questions or discuss the topic, please fill in the following information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

----- FOLD HERE -----

Director  
US Army Ballistic Research Laboratory  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005



NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES

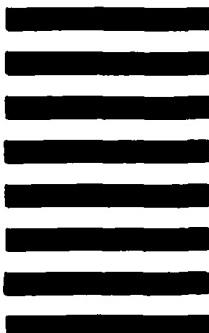
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO 12062 WASHINGTON, DC

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Director  
US Army Ballistic Research Laboratory  
ATTN: DRDAR-TSB  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005



----- FOLD HERE -----